Seminars on Population

2862. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national seminar on "Population—A Resource of Burden" was held in the capital on 20th October, 1994, under the aegis of the National Council for Science Museum;

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made at the seminar; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Seminar on population was organised by the National Council of Science Museums, under its popular programme 'National Science Seminar', on 20th October, 1994, and meant for school students, for encouraging and inculcating in them scientific temper as part of its regular activity.

(c) Does not arise.

Self Financing Higher Education

2863. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleasted to state:

(a) whetehr Government considered the need of self financing higher education;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) what was the expenditure on education by the Central Government and all the States and Union Territories including the current year's expenditure;

(d) what is the allocation of funds for higher education by the Central Government and State Governments and Union Territories during the last three years; and

(e) whether it has been decided to float an educational loan bank to finance the needy students at various levels including higher education, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Government's policy on financing of education is spelt out in the National Policy on Education—1986, as modified in 1992. The Policy postulates that "Resources, to the extent possible, will be raised by mobilising donations, asking beneficiary communities to maintain school buildings and supplies of some consumables, raising fees at the higher levels of education and effecting some savings by the efficient use of facilities. Institutions involved with research and the development of technical and scientific manpower should also mobilize some funds by levying a cess or charge on the user agencies, including Government Departments, and entrepreneurs. All these measures will be taken not only to reduce the burden on State resources but also for creating a greater sense of responsibility within the educational system".

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) Commercial Banks are already providing need-based finance to the eligible students under the "Educational Loans" Scheme.

Mineral Deposits in North Bengal

2864. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the North Bengal including the Darjeeling Hills is a rich depository of minerals;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to explore these mineral deposits; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of survey carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI), a total reserve of 15 million tonnes of coal in Eagrakot area in Darjeeling district, 3.7006 million tonnes of Lead-zinc ore with 3.77% lead and 3.87% zinc at Gorubathan and adjoining areas in Darjeeling district, 243 million tonnes of dolomite in Jainti area in Jalpaiguri district and crystalline limestone near Palla area, Darjeeling district has been established.

(c) Does not arise.

Mining Diamond Contract to Foreign Companies

2865. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have given mining rough diamond contracts to foreign companies in preference to Indian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?